WEIRD ADVENTURES ON OTHER WORLDS—THE UNIVERSE OF THE FUTURE

PLANET COMICS

10¢

JAN.
No. 16

ACTION HOUSE MAGAZINES

MARS, GOD OF WAR
LOOSES DESTRUCTION ON EARTH IN
"INVASION FROM THE VOID"

REEF RYAN • NORGE BENSON

FLINT BAKER • RED COMET

GALE ALLEN AND MANY OTHERS

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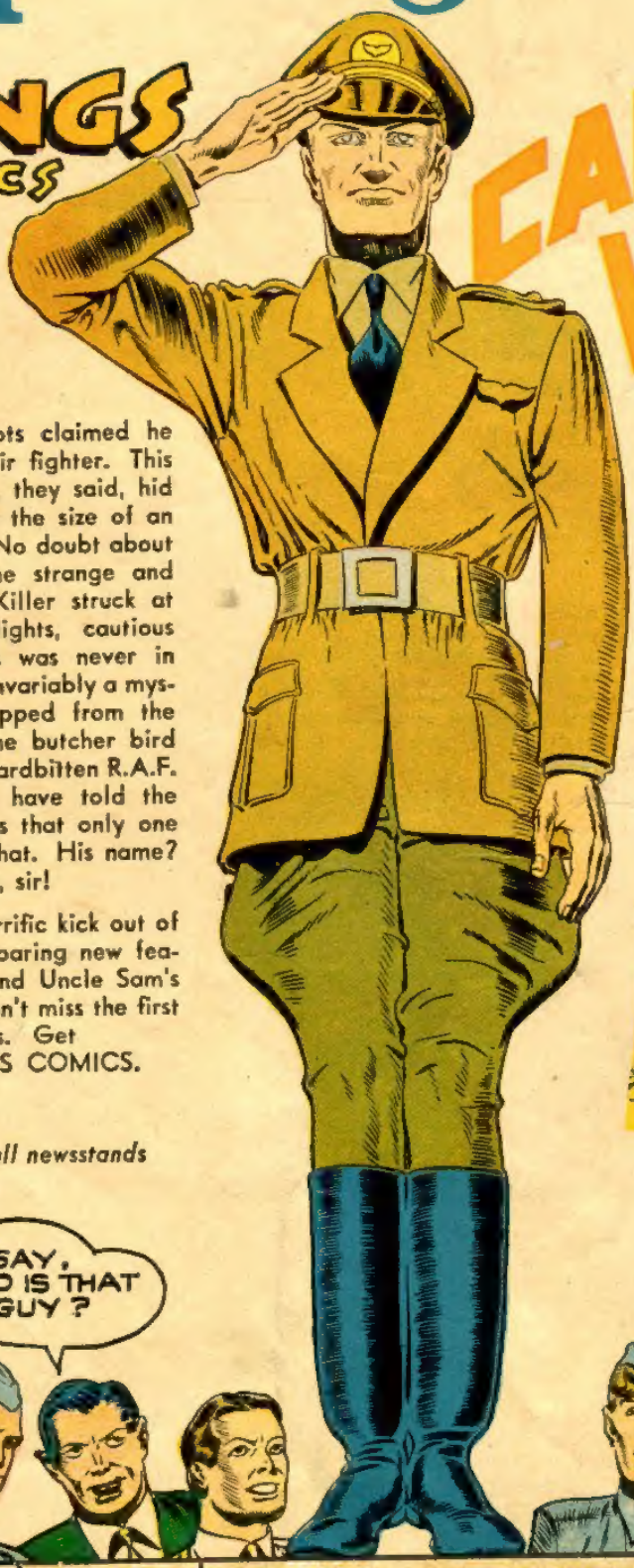
Reporting for duty

in WINGS COMICS

CAPTAIN WINGS



The student-pilots claimed he was an arm-chair fighter. This Captain Wings, they said, hid a white feather the size of an ostrich plume. No doubt about it, whenever the strange and horrible Mad Killer struck at the training flights, cautious Captain Wings was never in evidence. But invariably a mystery plane dropped from the sun to chase the butcher bird from its prey. Hardbitten R.A.F. veterans could have told the cocky fledglings that only one man flew like that. His name? Captain Wings, sir!

You'll get a terrific kick out of this zooming, roaring new feature built around Uncle Sam's secret Ace. Don't miss the first Captain Wings. Get WINGS COMICS.

On sale at all newsstands

FICTION HOUSE MAGAZINES — A FICTION HOUSE MAGAZINE

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THE NEXT ISSUE OF PLANET COMICS (No. 17, MARCH.) WILL BE ON SALE AT YOUR NEWSSTAND JAN. 10th.

MARS GOD of WAR

CENTURIES OF CARNAGE HAVE FAILED TO SATE THE BLOOD LUST OF A MONSTER, A HATE-FILLED SPIRIT WHO THUNDERS THROUGH THE UNIVERSE OBLITERATING CIVILIZATIONS WITH THE TORCH AND SWORD... MARS, GOD OF WAR!!

BY ROSS GALLUN

THE EVIL MISTY SPIRIT MARS WATCHES OVER THE GRAND COUNCIL OF JUPITER, FORCING HIS PLAN FOR DESTRUCTION ON THE SPEAKER'S MIND---

FELLOW JUPITERIANS! THE EARTHMEN ARE PREPARING TO INVADE OUR PLANET! WE MUST STRIKE FIRST! LET US DECLARE WAR NOW!

AMBASSADOR DIXON OF EARTH SPEAKS...

EARTH WANTS ONLY PEACE! EVEN NOW OUR FINEST SCIENTIST IS AT WORK ON AN INVENTION WHICH WILL END ALL WAR!

IT'S A RUSE!

DIXON'S RIGHT!

THAT EARTHMAN WILL RUIN MY PLANS! I MUST GET RID OF HIM!

DIXON AND HIS SON, BILL, LEAVE FOR THE EMBASSY...

I THINK I CAN AVOID WAR BUT IF ANYTHING GOES WRONG USE THE SECRET PASSAGE TO OUR SHIP---

SUDDENLY A ROCKET CAR CAREENS FROM ITS OWN TRAFFIC LANE---

LOOK OUT, BILL! HE'S HEADING FOR US.... WE'LL CRASH HEAD ON!

AT THE WHEEL OF THE HURTLING MACHINE IS THE MAD MONSTER, **MARS!**

BILL SWERVES WILDLY...

MISSED HIM... BY INCHES! WHO WAS THAT UGLY MANIAC?

THEY REACH THE EMBASSY...

DAD, SOMEONE WAS TRYING TO KILL YOU! YOU MUST WATCH OUT... THERE'S SOME EVIL FORCE AT WORK ON JUPITER!

I'LL BE CAREFUL. NOTHING COULD GET THROUGH THIS GLASS DOOR! GOOD NIGHT, SON!

SEE YOU TOMORROW!

AS HE CLIMBS THE STAIRS, SUDDENLY---

HELP! BILL!

IT'S DAD! I KNEW THIS WOULD HAPPEN!

HELPLESSLY, HE POUNDS ON THE HEAVY DOOR, AS MARS STRANGLES HIS FATHER---

FINALLY, WHEN THE DOOR GIVES WAY, THE WAR GOD HAS DISAPPEARED, AND...

DEAD!

JUPITER

EARTH

MARS

VENUS

MERCURY

SATURN

PISCES

CAPRICORNUS

AQUARIUS

BILL GOES TO THE WINDOW..

SOME-HOW I WILL AVENGE POOR FATHER'S DEATH!

GUARDS OF JUPITER BREAKING IN... WAR MUST HAVE BEEN DECLARED!

YOUNG DIXON RACES TO THE SECRET PASSAGE...

IT'S MY ONLY CHANCE!

MORE GUARDS AROUND THE SHIP..I'LL HAVE TO MAKE A BREAK FOR IT!

THE CRAFT ROARS THROUGH SPACE TOWARD EARTH...

BILL SLAMS HIS WAY THROUGH THE SQUAD...

YOU ASKED FOR THIS!

JUMPING ABOARD, HE SENDS THE SHIP HURTLING FROM JUPITER'S SURFACE.....

DIXON RUSHES TO REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT...

...SO YOU SEE, SIR, IMMEDIATE ACTION IS NECESSARY!

YES, BUT OUR DEFENSES ARE INADEQUATE! IF ONLY THE PARALYZING RAY WAS READY..

AT THAT MOMENT AN INVADING FORCE IS HEADING FOR EARTH!

RAY GUNS SCREAM A MESSAGE OF DEATH TO CITY AFTER CITY OF THE UNITED STATES OF EARTH...

SPACE SHIPS WHICH CLIMB TO DEFEND THEIR HOME-LAND ARE BLASTED FROM THE SKY---

ENTIRE NAVIES ARE SENT SHATTERED TO THE BOTTOM---

THEN, MADDENED, THE SPIRIT OF THE WAR GOD AND TROOPS OF JUPITER DESCEND LIKE A BLOODY PLAGUE ON PEACEFUL EARTH---

MEANWHILE IN THE PRES-IDENT'S OFFICE---

THERE'S ONE HOPE--THE PARALYZING RAY MAY BE PERFECTED! HERE IS THE SECRET LOCA-TION OF PROF. DALE'S LAB-ORATORY!

AS BILL ARRIVES AT THE SPACE-PORT---

WAIT! LET ME GO WITH YOU! PROF. DALE IS MY FATHER!

MARY DALE SHOWS BILL PROOF OF HER IDENTITY AND THEN THEY TAKE OFF FOR THE LABORATORY.

IF YOUR FATHER'S INVENTION IS FINISHED, EARTH STILL HAS A CHANCE!

PROF. DALE STANDS IN HIS HIDEOUT GAZING AT HIS NEW RAY MACHINE---

AT LAST! IT IS READY!---NOW WHAT?---SOMEONE'S KNOCKING AT THE DOOR...

COME IN!

SUSPECTING NO DANGER DALE GOES ON WITH HIS WORK AS THE DOOR OPENS..

IS THAT YOU, MARY?

IT IS MARS! SO YOU SEEK TO END ALL WAR? FOOL!

THE GOD OF WAR RAGES THROUGH THE LABORATORY SMASHING THE EQUIPMENT IN A MANIACAL FRENZY!

NOTHING MUST STOP WAR!

STOP! MY LIFE'S WORK IS RUINED!

AT THAT MOMENT BILL AND MARY RUSH IN...

LOOK! HE'S KILLING MY FATHER!

YOU DIRTY FIEND! YOU'RE THE ONE WHO MURDERED MY DAD!

BILL DRIVES ANOTHER BLOW INTO MARS' MIDRIFF...

I WILL AVENGE THIS INSULT ON THE ENTIRE EARTH!

ASSUMING HIS SPIRIT SIZE, MARS BINDS THE STRUGGLING BOY...

NOW WE SEE WHO'S MASTER!

HE SEIZES MARY AND RUSHES FROM THE ROOM...

KILL ME, YOU FIEND, BUT LET HER GO!

NOW EARTH WILL FEEL MY WRATH!

THE FORCES OF WAR WREAK HORRIBLE BLOODY CARNAGE...

LIKE A MIGHTY JUGGERNAUT OF DESTRUCTION, THE HATE-FILLED SOLDIERS OF JUPITER PLOUGH BRUTALLY THROUGH THE DESPERATELY BATTLING BUT UNPREPARED EARTHMEN -----

IN HIS HEADQUARTERS MARS PLANS THE FUTURE SLAVERY OF THE CONQUERED EARTH...

IF I COULD ONLY GET THE BRUTE TO FREE BILL... AH, I'VE GOT A PLAN... IF IT ONLY WORKS!

YOU CALL YOURSELF THE MOST POWERFUL FORCE IN ALL THE UNIVERSE... BUT YOU CAN'T EVEN BEAT BILL DIXON IN A FAIR FIGHT!

INFURIATED BY MARY'S TAUNTS, MARS HAS BILL BROUGHT IN AND UNBOUND..

WHAT? DO YOU...?

SO YOU CAN BEAT ME, EH?

NOW I'LL HAVE THE PLEASURE OF KILLING YOU!

NOT WITHOUT A FIGHT!

BILL SMASHES MARS WITH A PILE-DRIVER RIGHT!

WHIPPED, THE WAR LORD SLINKS AWAY----

BILL!

WILL THE EVIL MASTER OF HATE AND DESTRUCTION RETURN TO GET PLANET AGAINST PLANET IN BLOODY COMBAT IN YOUR NEXT...

PLANET COMICS

PLANET COMICS GOES ON SALE THE 15th

The STAR PIRATE

By LEONARDO VINCI

SPACE SLAVERY!! MYSTERIOUS RAIDERS, "THE SCAVENGER HAWKS," ROAR DOWN FROM THEIR HIDEOUT IN SATURN'S RINGS TO HAUNT THE SPACE LANES WITH A GRISLY TRAFFIC IN HUMAN LIVES...THEIR CODE OF GREED AND MURDER UNCHALLENGED BY THE ASTEROID PATROLS....

THE MOST BEAUTIFUL GIRLS OF EARTH AND VENUS FALL PREY TO THE SLAVERS....

OFFICERS WHO STARE WATCHFULLY INTO THE SKIES FOR SIGNS OF DANGER ARE STABBED IN THE BACK....

CROWDS RIOT FOR PROTECTION IN THE STREETS....

DOWN WITH THE HAWKS!

ARE OUR OFFICERS COWARDS, OR FOOLS?

PROTECTION

BUT A SPACE SHIP MARKED WITH THE SIGN OF THE "SCAVENGER HAWK" HEADS FOR SATURN---

THEY'RE A NASTY LOT, CAP'N NEGG, BUT A TASTE OF MY LASH AND.

SHUT UP, YOU IDIOT, I'VE SIGHTED THE VENGEANCE!

IN ITS HOLD IS A CARGO OF SULLEN SLAVES...

QUIET, YOU DIRTY SCUM! D'YE THINK SOME CHICKEN-LIVERED PATROLLER WILL HELP YOU?

HE'S RIGHT... WE'RE DOOMED, THE LOT OF US!

YEAH! GUESS SO!

ITS STAR PIRATE! WE'RE LOST!

MAN THE GUNS, YOU COWARD, WE'LL BLAST HIM FROM THE SKIES!

FROM CONCEALED OPENINGS IN THE SCAVENGERS SIDE, RAY CANNONS BELCH FORTH VOLLEYS OF ELECTRIC FLAME AND THUNDER---

BZZZZ

THE VENGEANCE LOOPS SUDDENLY, EVADING THE WITHERING BLAST---

A "HAWK" SLAVER! NEARLY GOT US TOO! MAN THE GUNS, TRODY, WE'LL TEACH 'EM TO SHOOT STRAIGHT!

AYE, STAR PIRATE. PULL ALONG SIDE, I'M ITCHING FOR A CRACK AT 'EM!

SLOWLY, THE VEN-GEANCE IS MAN-EUVERED INTO FIRING POSITION---

---AND HER DIS-INTEGRATING RAY CANNON SPIT A VICIOUS CHALLENGE...

THE SCAVENGER, BADLY RAYED, WOBBLES UNCERTAINLY AND SLACKENS TO A CRAWL.

SHE'S CRIPPLED NOW, DO WE FINNISH HER OFF?

HOLD ON, TRODY. I'VE ANOTHER IDEA.

A MOMENT LATER, A ROPE LADDER IS LOWERED BY TRODELYTE, AND THE STAR PIRATE DESCENDS, HANGING PRECARIOUSLY IN SPACE ---

THEN, HIS RAY GUNS BLASTING AT HER WINDOWS, HE LEAPS DOWN TO THE SCAVENGER'S OUTER DECK ---

THE BIG PROBLEM WILL BE TRYING TO GET OUT AGAIN!

HE VAULTS THROUGH A SHATTERED PORT-HOLE TO THE SLAVE QUARTERS BELOW ---

IT'S STAR PIRATE!

WE'RE SAVED!

THERE NOW, YOU'RE FREE. OH-OH! WHAT WAS THAT?

THE SLAVER HAS RETURNED! WITH THE SPEED OF LIGHT, STAR PIRATE SWINGS---

HEH-HEH! THAT WHAT YOU MEANT TO DO?

IN A LIGHTNING MOVE, THE SLAVER DRAWS HIS SWORD...

PIG! YOU'LL SOON BE OUT OF THE WAY!

MISSED!

THEN---

AS MEN OF THE SCAVENGER CREW RUSH IN, STAR PIRATE TURNS AND---

KEEP 'EM BUSY, BOYS. I'M GOING UP FOR A CHAT WITH THE CAPTAIN!

HE BOUNDS UP THE HATCH..

AT THE DOOR STAR PIRATE LEAPS ASIDE AS CAPTAIN NEGG SQUEEZES A WITHERING BLAST FROM HIS RAY PISTOL---

STAR PIRATE'S FLASHING SWORD SENDS THE SLAVER'S WEAPON CLATTERING TO THE FLOOR AND...

YOU'LL CO-OPERATE NEGG?

I'LL DO ANY-THING!

STAR PIRATE FORCES NEGG TO ISSUE ORDERS TO THE CREW..

RELEASE ALL PRISONERS AT ONCE...MAKE ARRANGE-MENTS FOR THEIR DEPART-URE IN AN AUXILIARY CRAFT!

AH, CAPTAIN, A MAP OF THE SCAVENGERS' SECRET NEST. I'LL TAKE IT ALONG! WHO KNOWS? MAYBE I'LL FIND A WAY TO FLY OVER TONIGHT!

DEATH WILL BE WAITING FOR YOU!

THAT NIGHT AT THE SCAVENGER NEST, DAGARA, THE PIRATE QUEEN, FLAYS HER FOLLOWERS.....

STUPID SWINE! STAR PIRATE HAS OUT-WITTED YOU.

"BUT HE SHALL NOT OUTWIT ME! HE KNOWS OUR HIDEOUT, BUT BY THE VULTURE I SWEAR THAT THE KNOWELDGE WILL CAUSE HIS DEATH!

WITHOUT LIGHTS OR SIGNALS TO GUIDE HIM, STAR PIRATE WILL WRECK HIS SHIP ON OUR CRAGGY CLIFFS...

LATER. THE VEN-GEANCE HURTLES TOWARD THE THREATENING CRAGS OF THE VULTURES' HIDEOUT.....

IF THIS LANDING DOESN'T KILL US, MASTER, THEY WILL!

STAR PIRATE LANDS SKILL-FULLY, BUT DAGARA AND HER MEN ARE WAITING AS THEY LEAP FROM THE SHIP...

AH, A PIRATE QUEEN TO GREET US, TRODY...

I DON'T LIKE THE LOOK ON HER FACE!

QUICKLY DISARMED BY THE HAWK QUEEN'S HENCHMEN, TRODY AND HIS MASTER ARE DRAGGED ALONG A SECRET PATH TO THE HIDEOUT...

INSIDE, DAGARA LEADS STAR PIRATE INTO ANOTHER WING OF THE SCAVENGERS' NEST...

GUARD THIS MAN WELL... COME, STAR PIRATE!

I CAN LICK THE TWO OF THEM WITH ONE HAND BEHIND ME!

ALONE WITH STAR PIRATE, DAGARA PROPOSES A STRANGE PARTNERSHIP..

I WANT TO SPARE YOUR LIFE, STAR PIRATE, BECAUSE I NEED YOU. TOGETHER WE TWO CAN RULE ALL SPACE. IF YOU AGREE, I OFFER A LIFE OF POWER SUCH AS KINGS DREAM OF!

AND IF I REFUSE?

DEATH!

BUT TRODY HAS GROWN WORRIED OVER HIS MASTER'S ABSENCE, AND----

STAR PIRATE, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

AS DAGARA'S GUN SPURTS DEADLY RAYS, TRODY SMASHES STAR PIRATE OUT OF DANGER----

GET A ROPE, TRODY. WE DON'T WANT ANY WOMEN TAGGING ALONG!

NOW FOR THE VENGEANCE, AND WE'LL LEAVE THEM SOME BOMBS TO REMEMBER US BY, EH TRODY?

MAYBE---

I'LL MAN THE GUNS AND---

HOLD ON- LET HER GO- SHE CAN'T DO ANY HARM NOW, TRODY-

BOMBS FROM THE VENGEANCE REDUCE THE NEST OF THE SCAVENGER HAWKS TO A VAST HEAP OF BURNING RUBBISH----

LOOKS LIKE OUR TROUBLES ARE OVER, TRODY!

NOT QUITE, MASTER- THAT SPACE SHIP-- ITS DAGARA!

MORE OF STAR PIRATE'S, THRILLING ADVENTURES OF OUTER SPACE IN NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE OF PLANET COMICS!!

REEF RYAN

BY HUGH FITZHUGH

IN THE PEACEFUL FLOATING CITY OF CORAAM...

SARKU HAS THE AMPHINS BEHIND HIM NOW, DAD!

I KNOW, VARA. THAT FOUL RASCAL WILL TRY TO INVADE CORAAM, SURE! WHAT CAN WE DO, REEF?

MEANWHILE, FAR BENEATH THE OCEAN'S DEPTHS ----

YOU SENT FOR ME, SARKU?

YES, REPUL, TAKE THIS HYPODERMIC. THE INVASION IS AT HAND...

...BUT FIRST WE MUST PUT REEF RYAN OUT OF THE WAY! WE'LL STRIKE AT HIM THROUGH VARA! LISTEN...

LEAVING THE VILLAINOUS SARKU, REPUL GLIDES UP THROUGH THE SURF...

PUTTING THEIR FEARS BEHIND THEM TEMPORARILY, REEF AND VARA RELAX ABOVE ...

LOOK AT THAT JEWEL FISH!

IT HAS GONE UNDER A LEDGE NOW.

I'LL GET IT! HERE GOES!

BUT REPUL LURKS BELOW.

OUCH! WHAT WAS THA...

IN A WEAKENED CONDITION, SHE REACHES THE SURFACE...

VARA! WHAT'S WRONG?

GOOD HEAVENS! SHE MUST HAVE FAINTED!

I'D BETTER GET HER TO A DOCTOR, FAST!

LATER---
I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT, NEPON.
NEITHER CAN I, REEF---HERE COMES THE DOCTOR NOW!
HOW IS SHE?
CONSCIOUSNESS HAS RETURNED! YOU MAY GO IN---
...DO NOT, STAY LONG, THOUGH. SHE IS VERY WEAK!
VARA HOW DO YOU FEEL?
HELLO, DAD!
HERE'S REEF TO SEE YOU!
?
REEF! GET HIM OUT OF HERE!
HA-HA! THAT DRUG DID THE TRICK!
SARKU WILL BE WELL PLEASED. NOW TO GET TO OUR MEETING PLACE!
FAR FROM CORAAM, THE TREACHEROUS DOCTOR FLASHES A LIGHT AND IMMEDIATELY---
AH- THERE'S THE DIVELL! HE'S RIGHT ON TIME!
I HAVE CARRIED OUT YOUR ORDERS. THE GIRL IS IN OUR POWER!
GOOD, NILOC!

WE SHALL INVADE CORAAM AS SOON AS RYAN IS OUT OF THE WAY!... GO BACK NOW, NILOC, YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO!

AS THE DIVELL SUBMERGES, HE TURNS THE CANOE ABOUT..

SARKU WILL PAY ME WELL!

NILOC! WHAT'S HE DOING IN A BOAT AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT SOMETHING FUNNY ABOUT THAT GUY!

REEF FOLLOWS AS THE TRAITOR GOES TO MEET HIS PATIENT---

DOCTOR!

GREETINGS, VARA!

YOUR BOY FRIEND IS FOLLOWING--- WHEN HE COMES, BID HIM WELCOME AS THOUGH NO ONE WERE HERE!

VARA! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

YES, REEF, COME ON UP. I'M SORRY FOR THE WAY I ACTED!

BUT AS REEF REACHES THE BALCONY...

MEANWHILE, BENEATH THE FLOATING CITY, SARKU AND HIS COHORTS FRANTICALLY ATTACK THE ISLAND'S FLOOR WITH BLOW TORCHES...

SUDDENLY, A GUARD CONFRONTS THEM...

A CORAAMITE, EH?

SARKU! YOU!

WE'RE THROUGH! COME ON MEN, THERE'S NO TIME TO LOSE!

SARKU LOOSES A VICIOUS BLOW...

FREE THE PRISONERS, MEN!

WITH THE PRISONERS, HIS HENCHMEN LONG IMPRISONED, THEY RACE INTO THE STREETS... THE INVASION OF CORAAM HAS BEGUN...

CONSCIOUSNESS SLOWLY RETURNS TO REEF---

WHERE AM I?

NOW I REMEMBER... VARA AND THAT DOCTOR! HE WAS THE ONE WHO HIT ME! HELLO!...WHAT'S THIS?

THE AMPHINS! AND NILOC! HOW DID THEY GET HERE SO SOON? I'VE GOT TO WARN THE PEOPLE!

BUT NILOC SEES REEF.

THERE'S NO TIME TO LOSE!

HE WON'T ESCAPE!

AS THOUGH WARNED BY SOME SIXTH SENSE, REEF WHIRLS, AND...

THIS SQUARES OUR ACCOUNTS!

HE HURLS NILOC AT THE AMPHINS, WHO NOW HAVE SPEARS POISED, READY TO AIM THEM AT REEF---

AS THE TRAITOR MEETS AN ACCIDENTAL THOUGH JUST DEATH, REEF SPEEDS OFF---

IT WAS THE END HE DESERVED FOR DRUGGING VARA! BUT WHERE'S SARKU? I MIGHT BE TOO LATE!

FLEEING FROM THE CONFUSED AMPHINS, REEF HEADS FOR THE CASTLE, GATHERING LOYAL CORAAMITES ON THE WAY..

COME ON! NEPON IS IN DANGER!

BUT THERE, IN THE MIDST OF A SCENE OF CARNAGE, VARA STARES FROM UNSEEING EYES, AS THE VILLAINOUS SARKU PINS NEPON IN HELPLESSNESS, HIDEOUS KNIFE POISED ABOVE HIS HEART----

THEN...

NOT THIS TIME, SARKU!

REEF RYAN, YOU—

FLAILING FISTS QUICKLY BATTER THE WOULD-BE ASSASSIN INTO A SENSELESS PULP...

LEADERLESS, THE AMPHINS FLEE, AND ONCE MORE THE CORAAMITE FLAG FLIES ABOVE A PEACEFUL CITY...

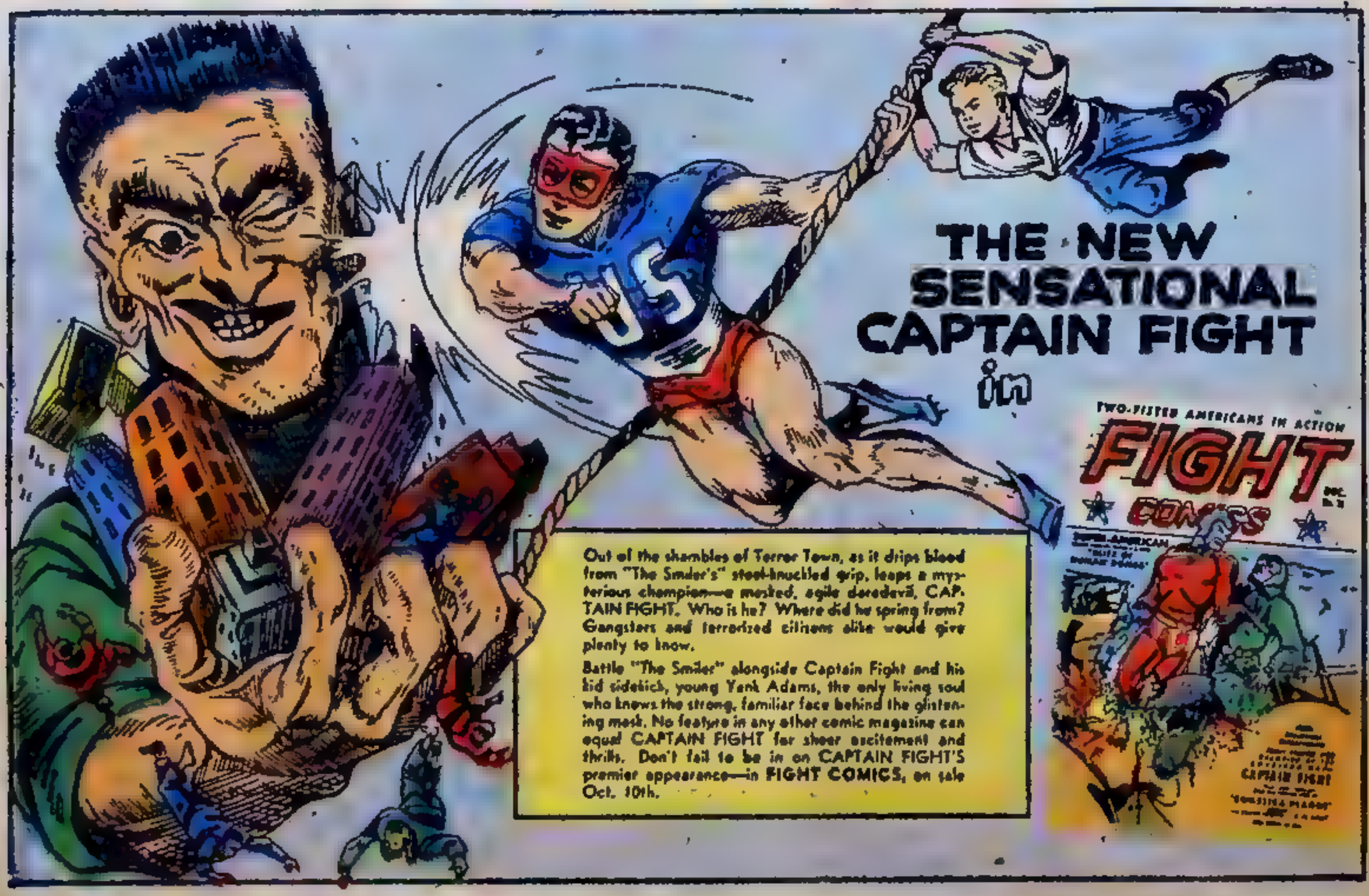
AS THE DRUG'S EFFECT PASSES, VARA RETURNS TO HER NORMAL SELF...

I OWE YOU MY LIFE, REEF!

AND I WANT...

FORGET IT VARA!

NEW ADVENTURES ARE IN STORE FOR REEF RYAN IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF PLANET COMICS



Out of the shambles of Terror Town, as it drips blood from "The Smiler's" steel-knuckled grip, leaps a mysterious champion—a muscled, agile daredevil, CAPTAIN FIGHT. Who is he? Where did he spring from? Gangsters and terrorized citizens alike would give plenty to know.

Battle "The Smiler" alongside Captain Fight and his kid sidekick, young Yank Adams, the only living soul who knows the strong, familiar face behind the glistening mask. No feature in any other comic magazine can equal CAPTAIN FIGHT for sheer excitement and thrills. Don't fail to be in on CAPTAIN FIGHT'S premier appearance—in **FIGHT COMICS**, on sale Oct. 10th.

AURO

Lord of Jupiter

by Jed Ganey

A MYSTERIOUS PLAGUE RAVAGES THE LENGTH AND BREADTH OF AURO'S REALM..HIS PEOPLE DIE LIKE FLIES WHILE AURO STANDS BY, HELPLESS. HOW CAN HE FIGHT THIS UNKNOWN SCOURGE?

WITH HIS CHIEF PHYSICIAN, AURO VISITS A DYING VICTIM OF THE PLAGUE.

I KNOW OF ONLY ONE THING TO BREAK TH S DISEASE.

AND THAT IS..?

RANIUM, AURO. A POWERFUL METAL GUARDED BY SAVAGES IN JUPITER'S INTERIOR!

THEN LET'S GO!

AURO AND LYMENE SET OUT TO PIERCE THE HAZARDS OF JUPITER'S FORBIDDING FOREST.

FINALLY THEY ARRIVE AT A TOWERING CITADEL CITY, BUILT OF PURE GLEAMING METAL, AND CRISS-CROSSED WITH METAL ROADWAYS..

THIS IS THE FORTRESS OF RANIOS, AURO.. THE WHOLE PLACE IS SOLID RANIUM.. ONE NUGGET WILL CURE OUR PEOPLE!

SUDDENLY A FANTASTIC SLED ZOOMS OUT OF A TUNNEL OPENING.

IT COMES TO AN ABRUPT HALT..THE DRIVER WHIPS OUT A LASSO AND...

AURO! WATCH OUT!

BUT AURO IS NOT TO BE CAUGHT TOO EASILY...

NO, SIR! NOT ME!

WITH A MIGHTY HEAVE, AURO TOSSES THE RANIO-MAN INTO A GROUP OF HIS SHOUTING FELLOWS WHO COME ON THE SCENE.

HERE..A PRESENT FOR YOU!

I'VE BEEN DRUGGED, AURO..THIS LASSO HAS TINY POISON DARTS IN IT.. YOU SAVE YOUR-SELF!

NOTHING DOIN'! I'M SAVING YOU TOO.. I'LL FIX THOSE HEATHENS

MEANWHILE, NEW HORDES OF WHOOPING RANIO-MEN SWARM TOWARD AURO. . .

KILL HIM! NO OUTLANDER CAN TOUCH OUR SACRED METAL!

BUT THE LORD OF JUPITER LEAPS UP INTO A TREE. .

IF ANYBODY DOES THE KILLING AROUND HERE, IT WON'T BE YOU!

WHAT? STOP HIM!!

NO..LET HIM GO... WE'LL USE THE OTHER OUTLANDER IN OUR SLAVE PITS!

WITH LYMENE ABOARD, UNCONCIOUS, THE SLED ZOOMS BACK INTO THE GLOOMY TUNNEL.

BUT ON THE FRINGE OF THE FOREST, AURO WAITS FOR NIGHTFALL.

THE SLAVE PITS, THEY SAID.. I'LL FIND LYMENE THERE...

I HOPE! HEY! WHAT'S THAT NOISE?

A HUGE PRE-HISTORIC APE SWINGS DOWN TOWARD HIM.

WOW! MURDER IN HIS EYES!

SORRY TO INTERFERE WITH YOUR PLANS!

SOCK

SHRIEKING CRAZILY THE GREAT APE LOSES HIS GRIP AND TUMBLES TO THE FOREST FLOOR.

THE SHRILL CRIES BRING OTHER APES TO THE SCENE.

UH-OH! AND NOW I HAVE TO BATTLE HIS RELATIVES!

BACK UP THERE! COME, NOW! I'M IN A HURRY!

BUT AT THAT MOMENT THE WHINE OF A RANIO-SLED IS HEARD.

THEY'RE HEADING THIS WAY!

TERRIFIED BY THE APPROACHING RANIO-MEN THE APES FLEE, DRAGGING AURO WITH THEM.

IF I DON'T ACT NOW MY GOOSE IS COOKED.. AND LYMENE'S TOO!

BUT A FLYING RANIO-LASSO CATCHES THE APE THAT STRUGGLES WITH AURO.

GOOD! ANOTHER SLAVE APE FOR OUR MINE!

AND THE OUTLANDER TOO!

I'LL PRETEND I'M STUNNED.. SO I CAN GET INSIDE AND RESCUE LYMENE.

ZOOMING BACK, THE FLYING SLED HEADS AGAIN FOR THE METAL TUNNEL. . .

DEEP, DEEP INTO THE BLACK FASTNESS OF THE UNDER-GROUND PASSAGE THEY GO.

AND STOP IN A CLEARING.. SUDDENLY..

SURPRISE!

THE ONLY THING YOU'LL DIG OUT OF THIS MINE IS A COMA!

ANOTHER RANIO-SLED COMES. AURO REVERSES THE SWITCH AND SENDS HIS CAR BACK.

BOTH SLEDS MEET WITH A SHIVERING CRASH.

LYMENE! YOU ALL RIGHT?

SURE, AND VERY GLAD TO SEE YOU, AURO!

THEY COMMANDEER AN EMPTY SLED.

THERE'S THE FRONT ENTRANCE. BUT IT'S WELL GUARDED!

NO MATTER.. HANG ON!

THEY CRASH RIGHT THROUGH THE STARTLED GUARDS.

NOW WE CAN GO HOME.. AND LOOK! I'VE GOT ENOUGH RANIUM TO CURE OUR PEOPLE!

THE LORD OF JUPITER WAGES WAR ON A NEW MENACE IN THE NEXT PLANET COMICS.

PLANET COMICS GOES ON SALE THE 15th

THE WHOLE TOWN IS TALKING!

DEC. No. 2

RANGERS OF FREEDOM 10¢

DESPERATELY THE THREE DARING YOUNG DEFENDERS OF DEMOCRACY BATTLE THE INVINCIBLE HORDES OF DESTRUCTION...

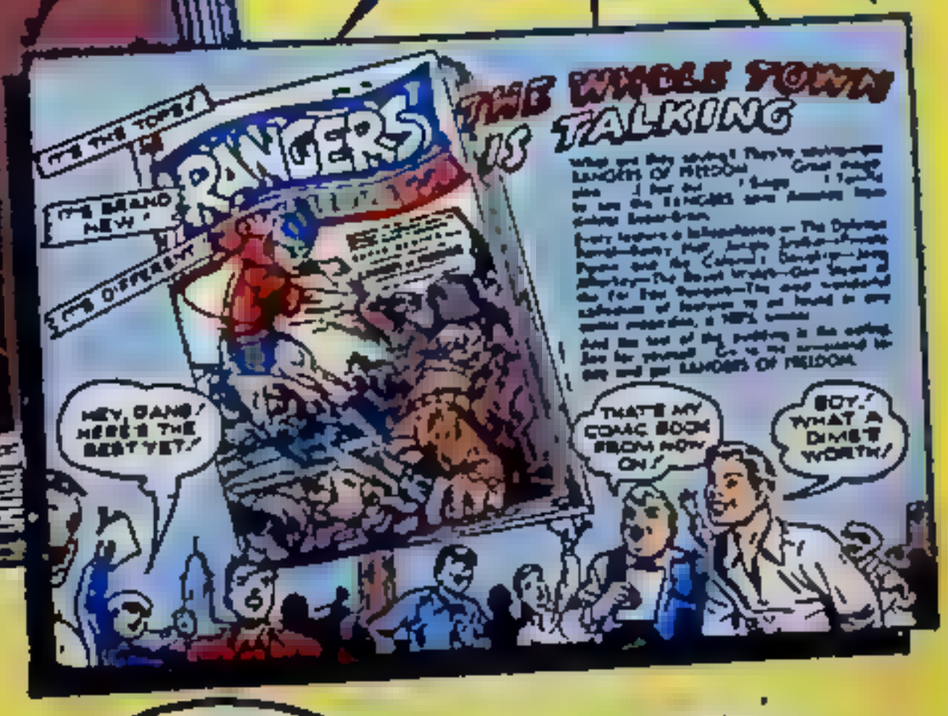
SUPER-BRAIN'S NAZI GANGSTERS AGAINST THE RANGERS OF FREEDOM

ALSO OTHER BIG ACTION-PACKED FEATURES

IT'S THE TOPS!

IT'S BRAND NEW!

IT'S DIFFERENT!


IT'S THE TOPS!
IT'S BRAND NEW!
IT'S DIFFERENT!
RANGERS
THE WHOLE TOWN IS TALKING
HEY, GANG! HERE'S THE BEST YET!
THAT'S MY COMIC BOOK FROM NOW ON!
BOY! WHAT A DIME'S WORTH!

HEY, GANG! HERE'S THE BEST YET!

THAT'S MY COMIC BOOK FROM NOW ON!

BOY! WHAT A DIME'S WORTH!

FLINT BAKER

By AL SCHMIDT

RUMORS HAVE SPREAD THROUGHOUT UKON, OF A STRANGE PEOPLE WHO INHABIT BENEATH THE PLANET'S SURFACE...

IN THEIR SPACE SHIP, FLINT AND MIMI ARE CRUISING OVER THE TREACHEROUS, FOG-RIDDEN HILL COUNTRY OF UKON---

IF OUR CHARTS ARE CORRECT, FLINT, WE SHOULD BE NEAR THE LOST CITY NOW!

YOURE RIGHT, MIMI. YOU TAKE THE CONTROLS WHILE I SEND A MESSAGE ON THE VIBRO!

FAR BELOW, IN THE CITY OF AN ADVANCED CIVILIZATION, FLINT'S MESSAGE IS PICKED UP..

SPACE SHIP ROGUE STAR CALLING NYKTOR... COME IN, NYKTOR--- GIVE YOUR LOCATION...

BUT AT AN OUTLAW CAMP IN THE PASSAGE TO NYKTOR, OTHER EARS HEAR THE MESSAGES--

THOSE STUPID SWINE! WELL, ANOTHER ROCKET WILL COME IN HANDY WHEN MY BAND ATTACKS THE NYKTORIANS!

NYKTOR CALLING ROGUE STAR...YOU ARE WELCOME HERE... ENTRANCE THROUGH CAVERN... LOCATION...39 XNONS WEST BY----

THEKLA--- MARTO! THE NET, QUICK! A ROCKET IS COMING!

A FEW MOMENTS LATER, THE ROGUE STAR FLOATS THROUGH THE MISTY PASSAGE..

MIMI! THERE'S A NET IN FRONT OF US! WE'VE RUN INTO A TRAP!

A VICIOUS SPANG ECHOES THROUGH THE CAVERN AS THE ROCKET IS ENSNARED.

INSTANTLY, THE OUTLAW HORDE IS UPON THEM.

IT'S NO USE, FLINT! THEY'RE TOO MANY!

BIND THE DOGS!

IT'S ALL MY FAULT, MIMI! I SHOULDN'T HAVE LET YOU COME ALONG!

FORGET IT! WE'LL FIND A WAY OUT!

THE CRIMINALS PROD THEIR PRISONERS TO A CAVE IN THE HILLS....

INSIDE, AND NO TRICKS!

IN THE CAVE'S DEPTHS, THEY SEE A DARK SHAPE...

FLINT, LOOK! WHAT'S THAT?

WHY! ANOTHER PRISONER! WHO ARE YOU?

I AM RITHOR, A NYKTORIAN SCIENTIST!

THESE BANDITS PLAN TO ATTACK MY PEOPLE. THEY CAPTURED ME TO MAKE EXPLOSIVES FOR THEM, BUT OF COURSE I REFUSED! WE COULD ESCAPE BUT FOR THESE BONDS...

...THERE IS A WAY! ARE YOU NOT EARTHMEN?

YES, I AM FLINT BAKER. THIS IS MY FRIEND MIMI!

WE THOUGHT THE NYKTORIANS WERE OUR CAPTORS!

FLINT SAWS HIS BONDS AGAINST A JAGGED ROCK ----

I'LL HAVE YOU TWO FREE IN A MINUTE!

LISTEN! SOMEONE'S COMING!

SO YOU THOUGHT YOU WOULD ESCAPE!

THE GUARD, MIMI! I'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM!

FLINT'S FLAILING FISTS SEND THE OUTLAW STAGGERING...

WHATS THE MATTER, GOING SOFT?

OOOOF!

YOU SHOULD JOIN A GYM!

COME, FLINT! HERE IS THE PASSAGE!

I DISCOVERED IT WHEN I WAS FIRST IMPRISONED

CAREFUL, MIMI!

AFTER FOLLOWING RITHOR THROUGH THE MISTY TUNNEL---

WE MADE IT. YONDER LIES NYKTOR!

CROWDS RUSH TO MEET THEM.

RITHOR! WE THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD!

BUT FOR MY FRIENDS HERE, I WOULD BE... OUTLAWS WHO PLAN TO ATTACK US, CAPTURED ME! YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN FLINT POLISH OFF ONE OF THEM!

IT WAS NOTHING.. SUPERIOR EARTH MUSCLES GIVE ME AN ADVANTAGE.

THEN YOU ARE THE MAN WE NEED TO LEAD US AGAINST THE OUTLAWS!

FLINT AGREES TO AID THE NYKTORIANS, AND SOON A GREAT ARMY IS BEING ORGANIZED---

YOU WILL BE IN FULL CHARGE, FLINT!

MEANWHILE, IN THE BANDIT CAMP---

THAT ACCURSED EARTHMAN WILL LEAD THEM. WE MUST PREVENT IT--- HERE ARE YOUR ORDERS, MARTO.

THAT NIGHT, THE EVIL MARTO STEALS INTO NYKTOR---

AH--- IT'S HER ROOM AND THERE SHE IS.

ROUGH HANDS SEIZE MIMI, MUFFLING ANY OUTCRY---

BE STILL, YOU LITTLE VIXEN!

HELPLESSLY BOUND AND GAGGED, MIMI IS CARRIED AWAY---

I HAVE LEFT THE NOTE FOR YOUR EARTH FRIEND!

ERIC BAKER

WHEN HE FINDS IT, HE WILL NOT DARE WORK AGAINST US!--- OH, THEKLA, HERE IS OUR PROTECTOR!

LATER, FLINT DISCOVERS THE NOTE---

THOSE MANGY SWINE. IF THEY HARM HER, I'LL----

THE OUTLAWS HAVE CAPTURED MIMI! THEY WILL KILL HER, IF WE ATTACK!

I'M GOING ALONE AND TRY TO RESCUE HER! HAVE THE MEN FOLLOW AT A DISTANCE, AND WAIT FOR MY SIGNAL---

THERE'S NO TIME TO LOSE!

IF ONLY I CAN TAKE THEM BY SURPRISE, I MIGHT HAVE A CHANCE!

THERE'S THE CAMP! AND- A CAVE WITH A GUARD OUTSIDE! THAT MUST BE WHERE THEY'RE KEEPING HER!

SILENTLY, FLINT SNEAKS UP BEHIND THE UNSUSPECTING RUFFIAN---

WHAT THE!

QUIET, BUD!

WELL, I HAVEN'T TIME TO ARGUE WITH YOU!

HURRY, MIMI! BEFORE HE RECOVERS!

I KNEW YOU'D COME, FLINT!

CLOSE IN, BOYS! WE KNEW YOU'D COME TOO, EARTHMAN! YOU WALKED INTO A TRAP!

FLINT! THEY'VE GOT US SURROUNDED!

YOU AND THE GIRL SHALL BOTH DIE, AND THEN WE WILL ENSLAVE NYKTOR!

WITH THE SPEED OF LIGHT, FLINT WHIPS OUT HIS RAY GUN---

I WOULDN'T MAKE ANY PLANS, BOYS!

ATOP A NEARBY HILL----

THAT'S FLINT'S SIGNAL, MEN! CHARGE!

QUICKLY, THE NYKTORIAN ARMY CLOSES IN---

THEY WON'T ESCAPE!

I DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE AS TOUGH AS YOU LOOK!

GET A MOVE ON! IT'S A CELL IN NYKTOR FOR YOU!

LATER--

WE ARE INDEBTED TO YOU, FLINT WILL YOU STAY HERE WITH US?

THANKS, BUT MIMI AND I MUST BE ON OUR WAY!

SMASHING THRILLS AWAIT YOU WITH FLINT BAKER AND MIMI IN THE NEXT PLANET COMICS

PLANET COMICS GOES ON SALE THE 15th

Treasure of the War Queen

By BJORN TAGENS

Captain Jeff Drake peered cautiously through a crevice in the strange lava-like rock, a Parunian ray rifle ready to his hand. The valley below him was deserted, and he nodded to his two companions and rose. The three slid quickly down the slope, seeking a way to the camp of the Earth expedition a few miles away in the mountains.

"Bet they're excited down in Parundar," grunted Blast Bragen, Drake's engineer.

"Why do you think so?" asked Mort Woodruff, the navigator, as he gyrated on a slick sloping rock, trying to keep his balance.

"Huh! We blew up Queen Morla's supply of radiatron, and a crowd of her soldiers. And Commander Allers gunned her ships down after they'd wrecked our two ships." Bragen wiped sweat off his face and nodded sagely.

Jeff Drake paused to study the land. "The War Queen hasn't had time to investigate, so she doesn't know what's happened. Of course, the whole town of Parundar must have heard that explosion, if not the shooting that downed her ships. We've got a little time."

"For what?" asked Bragen curiously. "To get back to the expedition?"

Drake hesitated. "That was my original idea. But I've been thinking the situation over. That magazine of radiatron surely isn't the only supply of power mineral that Morla has on tap. Probably this was a reserve supply, kept out here close to the mines. There must be a magazine of the stuff in the city somewhere."

Bragen and Woodruff exchanged dubious glances. "We'd have about as much chance as a snowball on Mercury in that town. Three Earthmen, calling on Queen Morla after she's been whipped twice by the Earth expedition!"

"It's risky business," agreed Woodruff. "But you reckon, Jeff, that if we destroy the main magazine of radiatron, Morla won't be able to power the ships she's building, or charge her guns—even guns like this?" He tapped his ray rifle, one of three captured from the annihilated Parun soldiery.

Jeff Drake nodded. "That's the idea. Are you with me?"

Bragen rubbed his chin. "Okay with me," he said, and Woodruff nodded.

"Here we go, then." Drake turned sharply to his left, choosing a downward path in the general direction of the capital city of Parun. He set a rapid pace, but his thoughts ran even more swiftly. They would need disguises; where could they find them?

So engrossed was he in his thoughts that he had just time to act on a shouted warning of the alert Woodruff: "Down, Jeff!"

He fell flat, hearing as he did so a ray from a rifle sizzling through the air above his head. He heard the spit of Bragen's rifle, then Woodruff's. Quickly he crawled to the shelter of a boulder and looked back. Bragen and Woodruff were similarly crouched.

"Scared 'em to cover," grunted Bragen. "I think I got one. Just as soon as I see a head, I'll get another."

"Wait!" Drake commanded. "These rifles aren't good for more than a few more shots. The radiatron is about used up—and we'd better save what's left for emergencies."

Bragen's jaw dropped. "What d'you call this?" he demanded.

"We can clear out of this in a hurry," said Drake. He studied the steep fall of the land. "Look! We're above those Parunians. Heave a rock at 'em every once in a while, and they'll stay under cover."

"Until we stop throwing," finished Bragen. "And we'll have to stop throwing when we leave here."

"No," said Drake. He led the two to a ledge above the hidden Parunian patrol. To illustrate his point he rolled a couple of stones the size of baseballs into a rock trough. Slowly the two moved to the end of the trough. Then the first stone fell a foot to a lava slope, bounced, went down the mountainside with increasing momentum. It bounced high, then disappeared. A yell of surprise and pain told the watcher that it had fallen among the enemy.

"Say!" cried Bragen. "A self-loading catapult!" He set to work collecting round stones of all sizes, and Woodruff helped him until a pile stood there, diminishing as the stones rolled one by one out of the trough. More yells came from the Parunians, who evidently retreated farther into a sort of cave.

One, however, dashed from the cave in anger, raising his rifle. Bragen whipped his piece to his shoulder and would have fired, but Drake interposed. "We need him," he cautioned. He let the Parunian, still unaware of their position, come within a few paces, then dropped him senseless with a straight-flung stone. Immediately he began to strip him.

"By George!" exclaimed Woodruff. "A disguise!"

"Right," grunted Drake, busy donning the Parunian's gear. "I'll wear this outfit and be a Parunian. Then I'll pick up some clothes for you two."

So it came about. A prosperous

farmer, driving a pair of horned beasts hitched to a richly accoutred two-wheeled cart, stopped when Drake, raising his hand, stepped from a roadside shadow and sat meekly while Drake calmly appropriated a pile of clothing under the seat. He drove off sullenly without seeing the crouching Bragen and Woodruff.

There was plenty of apparel, and soon the three proceeded, to all observers a Parunian soldier and two civilians from the countryside. They made their way through the great city gate without being challenged. In the busy market-place, however, a soldier approached them.

"Leave him to me, Jeff," muttered Drake. "I'll crown him if he starts anything."

But the soldier was friendly, though inquisitive. "Where are you from?" he asked. "Do you know anything about the battle?"

"Battle?" Drake was puzzled. Then he understood—the city had heard one or more explosions in the mountains. He seized the topic as an opportunity for inquiries. "We saw no battle," he told the curious man. "But we heard that the radiatron magazine in the mountains has been blown up."

The man's eyes dilated in panic. "Quiet!" he whispered. "For if the Queen—or old Ghitor—should hear you, it would be the death pit for you, soldier! Surely you know it!"

"Of course," murmured Drake. "You too realize how much radiatron is left now for the army?"

"Only the big magazine behind the temple," muttered the soldier. "What can have happened up there?"

Drake shook his head politely, and moved on. Bragen and Woodruff clung to his heels. When they turned a corner, Blast cheered softly. "Boy! Did you get the low-down! Now all we do is find the temple, blow up—"

"Steady," cautioned Drake. "We'll have to wait until dark, for a getaway."

They whiled away the afternoon in the crowded streets, avoiding the soldiery, for Drake feared that a superior officer might question him as to his presence in the city. But the officers seemed to be in a great state of excitement, and the soldiers dashed about in haste. They drifted near the temple.

"Oh-oh," grunted Bragen. "Do you see what I see?"

"Where?" asked Drake, keeping his back to a pair of hurrying officers.

"That must be the temple," said Bragen, jerking his head toward a towering building with high columns and an imposing set of steps. "If so, the funny house like a jail, there, must be the magazine. And the troops are loading up on radiatron!"

Drake saw that it was true. Half a dozen rocket chariots, speedy ground conveyances with room for a dozen soldiers in each, were being loaded with canisters of some metal or plastic. The soldiers engaged in the task bore their burdens carefully.

"Radiatron, all right," murmured Woodruff. "See how carefully they handle it. Must be tricky stuff."

Another chariot whizzed into the street, and the soldiers stiffened at a sharp command. An officer saluted a slim figure in the chariot.

"It's Morla!" whispered Drake.

"The mad war queen herself!" cried Woodruff.

"Don't let her see you, Jeff!" urged Bragen. "She'd recognize you!"

The three began to back away as the girl-queen rose and acknowledged the salutes of her soldiers. "Men of Parun!" she cried. "Soon I shall lead you against the invading Earthmen—and then we shall crush them utterly!"

The soldiers cheered, the civilians clustering about joining in the tumult. Suddenly Queen Morla spied Jeff Drake. Her sullen brows came down in a stare of incredulity and alarm, then she pointed to him, screaming.

"Seize him!" she shrieked. "The Earthman! The Spy!"

Soldiers, seizing weapons, stared about wildly. Civilians glared at one another with quick suspicion. In the moment of confusion Jeff Drake shoved Bragen and Woodruff to the shelter of the great temple.

"Blast!" he called quickly. "Get the detonator out of your rifle—quick! You too, Mort!"

They obeyed with fumbling fingers, though Blast muttered, "Without these the guns aren't worth a—"

"Never mind that," grunted Drake through set teeth. He stood his ground, facing the soldiers at the magazine door, though they and many civilians were beginning to look his way. The queen, now speechless with rage, was trying to find breath to identify Drake to the baffled commander of the magazine guard.

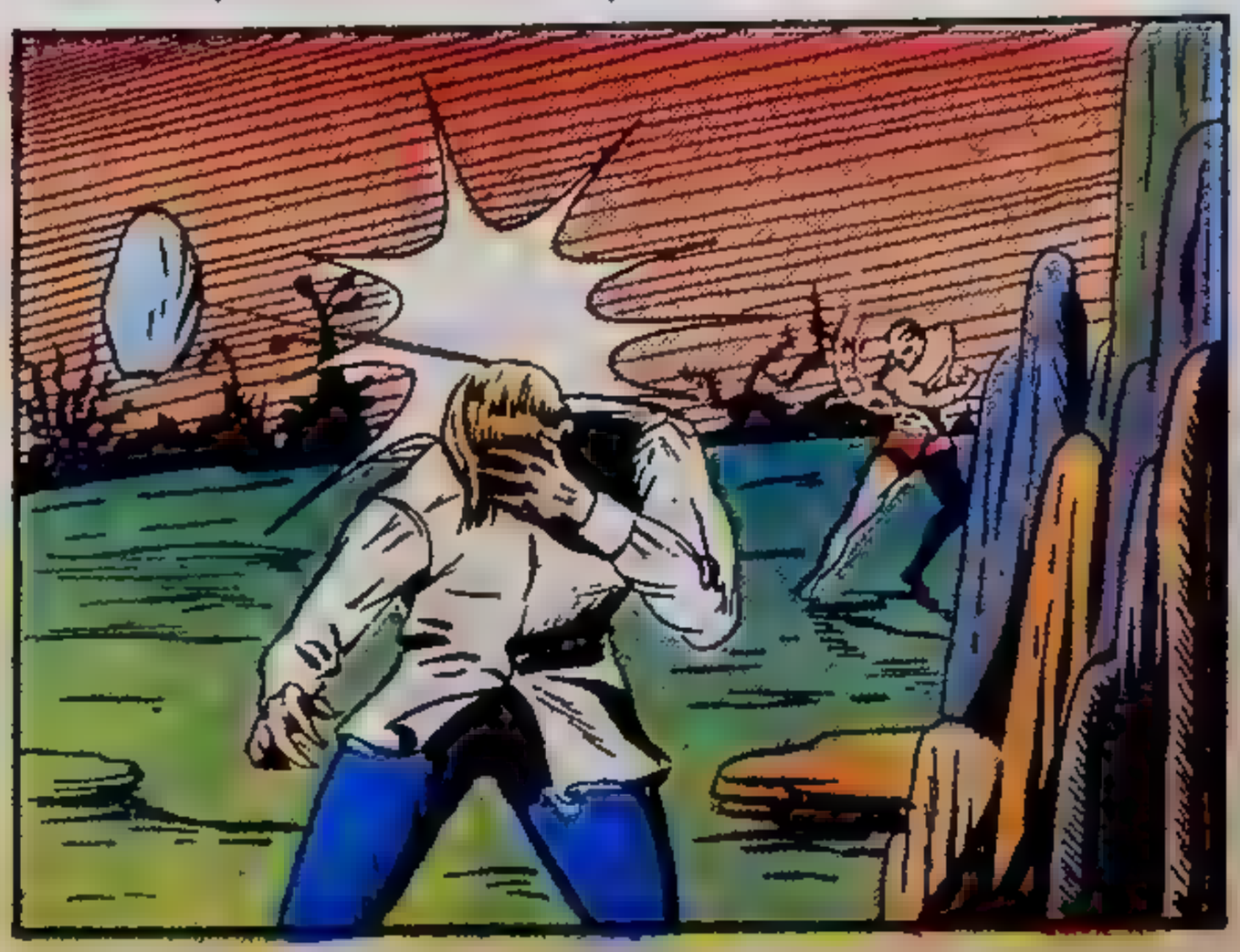
Then Drake felt two hard objects being pressed into his hand. A soldier thrust at him with a sword. He swung a fist and the soldier collapsed. He raised his arm, tossed both rifle detonators at the open magazine door, and heaved against his companions, all but knocking them off their feet, but shoving them into the protection of the thick temple walls. He had a glimpse of their puzzled expressions before he felt the ground shake under his feet, heard the tremendous roar as the radiatron shattered the stout stone building, and lost consciousness.

He revived with his head in Bragen's hands. Beside him Woodruff was stirring, shaking his head. "You all right, Skipper?" asked Bragen anxiously.

"All right now," gasped Drake, rising giddily to his feet. He looked past the corner of the temple and saw stone wreckage heaped where the force of the radiatron blast had felled whole buildings. "What a mess!"

They began to move away, toward the great gate of the city. For two whole blocks they saw no man on his feet—every Parunian soldier or civilian was prone or crawling, dazed, on hands and knees. And the radiatron threat was ended.

"That," remarked Bragen as they passed unchallenged through the gate on their way back to the mountains, "will put a crimp in Queen Morla's march to annihilate us Earthmen!"



The Red Comet

By Ray Thatcher

IN THE YEAR 2541, AN EXPEDITION WAS SENT FROM EARTH TO OBTAIN A RARE METAL, INVALUABLE IN DEFENDING THEIR PLANET AGAINST INVASION. MONTHS LATER, AN OFFICIAL OF EARTH SUMMONS HIS MOST FAMOUS ADVENTURER.. RED COMET!

NOTHING HAS BEEN HEARD FROM OUR EXPLORERS ON ZAKKA. THEY WENT IN SEARCH OF CASCIUM ORE... YOU MUST...

I'LL LEAVE TOMORROW!

LATER, A SPY REPORTS TO HIS MASTER.

RASNEL! THE PRESIDENT HAS COMMISSIONED RED COMET TO GO TO ZAKKA AND SEARCH FOR THE EXPLORERS!

RASNEL SUMMONS HIS HENCHMEN.

YOU MUST SEE THAT RED COMET DOES NOT REACH ZAKKA! WE'LL GET THAT CASCIUM ORE OURSELVES!

AYE, RASNEL! HE WON'T GET FAR!

AMID THE FIRST GREY STREAKS OF DAWN.

HE'S HEADING FOR HIS SHIP... WELL, HE WONT GET FAR...

SIXTH SENSE WARNS RED COMET, AND AS THEY JUMP HIM...!

UGH!

FROM NEARBY, RASNEL WATCHES....

HE'S GETTING THE BEST OF THEM! I'D BETTER HEAD FOR ZAKKA, FAST!

THERE'S MY SHIP! AND HERE COMES SIMO TO REPORT!

I SAW IT ALL! STOP HIM FROM FOLLOWING, I DON'T CARE HOW!

I'LL GET HIM!

HO...HO! ALL OF YOU BOYS LEAD WITH YOUR CHINS!

HIS ASSAILANTS SUBDUED, RED COMET RACES FOR HIS SHIP.

I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY THEY TRIED TO STOP ME!

HOURS LATER, AS RED COMET HURTLES THROUGH SPACE...

THERE'S ZAKKA, NOW. DOWN WE GO!

RED COMET LANDS BESIDE ANOTHER EARTH SHIP...

IT LOOKS LIKE THE SHIP THAT TOOK OFF JUST BEFORE ME!

DESERTED! WELL, ITS PILOT MUST BE THE MAN WHO DIDN'T WANT ME TO REACH ZAKKA!

SUDDENLY, THE CRUSHING TENTACLE OF A CANNIBALISTIC PLANT DROPS ABOUT HIM.

WHAT THE...!

EXPANDING TO GIANT SIZE, RED COMET RENDS THE PLANT ASUNDER...

SNAP

Then

OH...OH! A TOARG!

THE EARTHMAN GOES DOWN BENEATH THE FURY OF THE SAVAGE TOARG'S ATTACK.

But WITH THE SPEED OF LIGHT RED COMET SEIZES THE RAVENOUS CREATURE!

GOOG

REMEMBER THIS THE NEXT TIME YOU FEEL MISCHIEVOUS.!

THE TOARG LANDS ON A ROCK. SPARKS AND SMOKE BILLOW ABOUT IT.

WHEW.! ELECTROCUTED.! LUCKY I DIDN'T TOUCH THAT KIND OF ROCK.!

GREAT SCOT.! HERE I'M STANDING ON ONE. I MUST BE IMMUNE.!

SAY, THIS OUGHT TO BE A VALUABLE WEAPON.! I THINK I'LL TAKE SOME ALONG.!

ANOTHER OF THE HIDEOUS CREATURES SPRINGS AT RED COMET...

THE DEAD. ONE'S MATE.!

DIDN'T HAVE TO WAIT LONG TO USE THIS ROCK.!

MEANWHILE RASNEL HAS GAINED THE ZAKKANS' CONFIDENCE, PERSUADED THEM TO ENSLAVE THE EXPLORERS, AND PLACE HIM IN CHARGE OF THEM AT THE CASCIUM MINES...

FASTER, YOU SWINE! FASTER!

A ZAKKAN HURRIES TO RASNEL.

A ROCKET HAS LANDED, IT IS AN EARTHMAN!

MUST BE THE RED COMET!

TAKE SOME MEN AND CAPTURE HIM AT ONCE! KILL HIM IF NECESSARY!

RETURNED TO NORMAL SIZE, RED COMET GOES ON SEARCHING FOR THE EXPLORERS...

WITH A WHITE GIRL BEARING THEIR SUPPLIES, THE STALKERS SIGHT THEIR PREY.

LOOK! THERE HE IS! GET HIM!

I'VE GOT TO WARN HIM!

LOOK OUT!

SHE HAS RUN TO HIM!

THE SPEARS! THEY MUST BOTH DIE!

THANKS TO YOU, NOW I'LL BE ABLE TO....

WEILDING THE ZAKKAN'S SPEAR, RED COMET SLASHES AT THEIR RANKS..

But FROM BEHIND COMES A SAVAGE BLOW....

THIS WILL FIX THE DOG!

THE ZAKKANS QUICKLY BIND THEIR UNCONSCIOUS PRISONER.

YOU SHALL PAY FOR WARNING HIM!

RASNEL WILL TEACH BOTH OF THE SWINE A LESSON!

SO RASNEL IS BEHIND THIS! WELL, LOOKS LIKE I'M GOING TO MEET HIM AT A DISADVANTAGE.

...AND THE PRETTY MISS RAN TO RED COMET'S SIDE, EH?

WELL, SHE CAN BE WITH HIM IN DEATH! AWAY WITH THEM!

THE TWO ARE TIED TO ROCK FORMATIONS AND THE EXECUTIONER IS ABOUT TO GO INTO ACTION WHEN....

SUDDENLY AN AWE-INSPIRING CREATURE THUNDERS DOWN FROM THE HILLS.

FLEE! IT IS THE GHOR!

HELP!

GREAT SLIMY CLAWS CLUTCH A HELPLESS FORM.

'NEATH THE FURY OF RED COMET'S ATTACK, TALONED PAWS RELEASE THEIR HOLD.

RED COMET'S BONDS BURST AS HE EXPANDS TO DRIVE POWERFUL BLOWS INTO THE HIDEOUS GHOR.'

INSTANTLY...

YOU'LL BE SAFE UP THERE.'

Then

THE GHOR LUNGES FORWARD, SLAVERING JAWS AGAPE..

RED COMET LEAPS UPON ITS BACK, PUMMELING THE GHOR'S HEAD, AND

...AS IT SLUMPS, DYING, THE ZAKKANS RETURN.

YOU SAVED OUR PEOPLE FROM THE GHOR, MIGHTY EARTH-MAN. WE WANT YOU FOR OUR LEADER!

THEY'VE TURNED AGAINST ME...I MUST ESCAPE!

YOU WONT GET AWAY RASNEL!

BEAR LENDS RASNEL SPEED, AS HE HEADS FOR HIS SHIP PURSUED BY RED COMET.

NOT THIS TIME, MY FRIEND!

YOU DESERVE MORE, BUT WE'LL LET IT GO AT THIS!

GRATEFUL TO RED COMET FOR RIDDING THEIR PLANET OF THE GHOR, THE ZAKKANS LOAD CASCIUM CONCEN-TRATES ON HIS SHIP....

...AND WITH THE EXPLORERS ABOARD, IT ROARS INTO OUTER SPACE, HEADING FOR FOR EARTH.

RED COMET WILL BE BACK IN A SMASHING NEW THRILLER IN YOUR NEXT COPY OF PLANET COMICS!

PLANET COMICS GOES ON SALE THE 15th

Crash PARKER

By S. A. SELWYN

RETURNING FROM AN EXPLORING TRIP, CRASH FINDS THE TARMIAN SPACEPORT CROWDED WITH SOLDIERS...

WONDER WHAT'S UP?

CRASH PARKER! IN THE NAME OF QUEEN VONA, I PLACE YOU UNDER ARREST!

WHY? WHAT HAVE I DONE?

SILENCE! THE QUEEN WILL ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS!

I'M SORRY, CRASH!

CRASH IS DISARMED AND TAKEN TO THE THRONE ROOM...

WHY HAVE I BEEN ARRESTED? WHAT TH-! CRANZ! VONA, WHY DO YOU ASSOCIATE WITH THIS CONVICTED ASSASSIN?

GUARDS! THROW HIM IN THE DEEPEST DUNGEON OF THE CASTLE!

BEWILDERED, CRASH IS LED THROUGH MUSTY, SILENT PASSAGES.

I HATE TO DO THIS, CRASH, BUT WE MUST CARRY OUT THE QUEEN'S ORDERS!

MEANWHILE -

CLEAR THE THRONE ROOM. YOU MAY STAY, CRANZ!

AS THE ATTENDANTS DEPART, CRANZ TURNS HYPNOTIC EYES ON VONA..

I GOT TO HER JUST IN TIME. THE DRUG IS WEARING OFF!

SHE'S IN A TRANCE. I'LL LEAVE HER THAT WAY WHILE I GET MORE OF THE FORMULA!

NOW TO MY LABORATORY! AND MORE OF THE DRUG TO MAKE HER MY TOOL!

GREETINGS, MY PET. ONCE MORE YOU CAN AID ME IN MY PLAN TO RULE TARM!

AGAIN YOUR VENOM SHALL SERVE ME ROYALLY!

AH..A FEW MORE DOSES AND SHE WILL BE MY SLAVE FOR LIFE!

IN THE MEANTIME, CRASH PACES HIS CELL---

WHAT LUCK! A TRAPDOOR! NOW TO FIND THE REASON FOR VONA'S MADNESS!

AS HE DESCENDS, CRASH IS CONFRONTED BY A SCENE OF HORROR---

A RUSTLING SOUND COMES TO HIS EARS...

WHAT WAS THAT?

FIERCE RODENT-LIKE CREATURES. CHARGE, FANGS BARED---

RODTILES! I NEED A WEAPON!...AH- MY BELT!

---AND RACES TOWARD AN ANCIENT DOORWAY----

WITH THE HEAVILY-BUCKLED STRAP, HE LASHES AT THE RAVENOUS RODTILES---

THERE-THAT WILL HOLD THEM!

THIS WING OF THE PALACE HASN'T BEEN USED FOR CENTURIES!

WHAT'S THAT? A VOICE... A MAN'S VOICE!

NOW THE DRUG IS READY FOR VONA. WITH CRASH PARKER OUT OF THE WAY, I SHALL RULE TARM!

CRANZ! I MIGHT HAVE KNOWN YOU WERE BEHIND THIS FIENDISH PLOT!

THE ASSASSIN HURLS A FLASK, AND QUICKLY RELEASES THE MONSTER ---

FOOL! MY TRANTUL WILL MAKE SHORT WORK OF YOU!

AS THE TRANTUL HEADS FOR CRASH, CRANZ FLEES..

NOW TO LOCK THE DOOR!

SLOWLY, THE MONSTER CLOSES IN ON ITS IMPRISONED FOE ---

MY BELT IS USELESS!

SUDDENLY, CRASH'S EYE FALLS ON A VIAL...

VENITE

..VENITE, A HIGH EXPLOSIVE! HE SEIZES THE FLASK AND HURLS IT AT THE ADVANCING TRANTUL ---

VENITE

THEN, DIVES BEHIND A GREAT STONE COLUMN---

---AS AN EXPLOSION ROCKS THE ROOM—

BOOM!

NOW TO THE THRONE ROOM! IF HE'S GIVEN VONA THAT ACCURSED DRUG, I'LL---

SUDDENLY---

STOP, CRASH PARKER! OR YOU DIE!

THERE'S NO TIME TO LOSE. CRANZ IS DRUGGING QUEEN VONA! WE MAY TOO LATE. YOU MUST BELIEVE ME!

MEN, CRASH HAS ALWAYS BEEN LOYAL TO TARM. SHALL WE LET HIM PROVE HIS WORDS?

AYE!

MEANWHILE, A SERVANT TAKES FOOD TO VONA...

I SHALL DELIVER THE QUEEN'S TRAY, MYSELF. YOU ARE DISMISSED, KNAVE!

A FEW DROPS IN THE WINE WILL DO THE TRICK!

IN THE THRONE ROOM, HE CASTS A HYPNOTIC SPELL---

YOUR WINE, QUEEN VONA. **DRINK!**

AT THAT MOMENT, CRASH AND THE TARMIANS BURST IN

STOP! DON'T DRINK, VONA!

THIS MAN IS A FIEND. HE HAS DRUGGED THE WINE TO EN-SLAVE YOUR MIND!

?

FOUL DOG! YOU SHALL PAY!

CORRECT, CRANZ, AND RIGHT NOW TOO! STAND BACK, MEN!

IT WAS THE END HE DE-SERVED. VONA, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

YES, CRASH. NOW THAT HIS DRUG HAS WORN OFF, I SEE IT ALL. I AM GRATEFUL!

MORE THRILLS AWAIT YOU AND CRASH PARKER IN YOUR NEXT PLANET COMICS

PLANET COMICS GOES ON SALE THE 15th

GALE ALLEN and the Girl Squadron

by Douglas McKee

GALE, JACK AND THE GIRL SQUADRON ARE SEARCHING FOR STALOTS, FEROCIOUS, WILD STEEDS OF THE VENUSIAN MOUNTAINS....

SUDDENLY, GALE HALTS, TREMBLING WITH EXCITEMENT....

LOOK!

A HERD OF FIERCE BEASTS THUNDERS DOWN ON THEM.

STALOTS!

WITH A DARING LEAP, JACK IS UPON THE LEADER'S BACK....

AH, THE HERD'S TURNING!

BUT WITH JACK HANGING PRECARIOUSLY, THE STALOT SPEEDS OFF....

COME ON! AFTER HIM! HE MAY BE KILLED!

INSTANTLY, FIERCE LITTLE MEN SPRING INTO THEIR PATH..

WHA... WHO ARE YOU?

SCREAMING SAVAGELY, THE DWARFS HURL FOG BOMBS INTO THEIR MIDST....

GALE GROPES BLINDLY THROUGH THE BILLOWING MIST....

WHEN THE FOG FINALLY LIFTS, BOTH STALOTS AND DWARFS ARE GONE....

LOOK! A STALOT ATOP THAT MOUNTAIN!

YOU GIRLS GO BACK FOR EX-PLONITE! WE MAY NEED IT!

I'LL TRY TO CAPTURE THE STALOT AND SEARCH FOR JACK!

SILENTLY, SHE APPROACHES THE STEED....

GALE'S LARIAT WHISTLES ABOUT THE STARTLED CREATURE'S NECK....

GOT IT!

IT LEAPS VIOLENTLY IN AN EFFORT TO ESCAPE....

STEADY, BOY! WELL... HERE GOES!

HER SOOTHING HAND CALMS THE MOUNT..

A PRECIPICE, I'LL HAVE A LOOK!

BUT AS GALE APPROACHES THE CLIFF'S EDGE, THE STALOT CHARGES STRAIGHT FOR HER. . . .

IN A FRANTIC EFFORT TO GET OUT OF ITS WAY, SHE HURTLES DOWN...DOWN.....

MEANWHILE, THE STALOT HAS THROWN JACK..AS HE SEARCHES FOR THE GIRLS, DWARFS COME UPON HIM, AND SPRING TO ATTACK....

THEY'RE TOO MANY FOR ME!

QUICKLY JACK IS MADE CAPTIVE...

THE FIERCE LITTLE MEN LEAD THEIR PRISONER THROUGH A MISTY PASSAGE.....

HE IS TAKEN BEFORE THEIR LEADER.....

O MASTER! WE HAVE BROUGHT A PRISONER, A VANAMITE!

HE SHALL FIGHT THE WILDEST STALOT... FOR HIS LIFE!

AS A GRASSY LEDGE BROKE HER FALL, UNCONSCIOUSNESS SETTLED UPON GALE. SHE RECOVERS...

OOH... WHERE AM I? NOW I REMEMBER!

NOW TO GET OFF THIS SHELF. AH..A PASSAGE!

SHE GROPES HER WAY THROUGH THE MISTY PASS AND....

IT'S JACK! IN TROUBLE, TOO!

AS THE STALOT CHARGES, JACK SEES THE CAGE OF A VICIOUS TIGRON AT THE ARENA'S EDGE, AND RIPS OUT THE BARS...

MAYBE THEY'LL FIGHT EACH OTHER!

BENEATH A CRUSHING ATTACK, THE TIGRON FALLS, MORTALLY WOUNDED....

THE KILLER HEADS FOR JACK, AS GALE SPRINGS, KNIFE IN HAND....

GALE!

AGAIN AND AGAIN, THE BLADE SINKS HOME, AND THE STALOT CRUMPLES BENEATH HER....

SEIZE THEM! THEY MUST DIE!

THE GIRL SHALL BE FIRST! SHE KILLED THE SACRED STALOT!

AT THAT MOMENT, THE GIRL SQUADRON RACES INTO THE ARENA, BUT THE DWARFS ONCE MORE HURL BLINDING FOG BOMBS. . . .

WITH THEIR EXPLONITE CHARGES, GALE'S FORCES QUICKLY DISPELL THE MIST....

TO THE HILLS, MEN!

THE DWARFS FLEE THROUGH A SECRET PASS....

WELL, GALE, I HAVE YOU AND THE GIRL SQUADRON TO THANK FOR SAVING MY LIFE!

FORGET IT, JACK! COME ON, IT'S BACK TO VANAM FOR US!

MORE THRILLS AWAIT YOU WITH GALE AND THE GIRL SQUADRON IN THE NEXT....

PLANET COMICS

NOISY BENSON

by Otto Binder

FAMINE SWEEPS THE PLANET PLUTO, AND NORGE, FROSTING AND "HATRACK" THE REINDEER, HAVE WASTED AWAY TO SKIN AND BONES, PLUS, OF COURSE, A SMALL QUANTITY OF FUR AND ANTLERS. . . .

WHAT I'D GIVE FOR JUST ONE FISH!

HERE'S ONE! OH... IT'S A BOTTLE!

BUT THE BOTTLE CONTAINS A NOTE!

PIRATT!!

IT'S FROM AN EXPLORER! HE TELLS OF A LAND OF PLENTY...AND I DO MEAN FISH! HE'S PROB'LY DEAD BY NOW THOUGH, CAUSE IT'S THE LAND OF **PIRATE PENGUINS!**

LET'S GO ANYWAY. I'M STARVED!

THE EXPEDITION STARTS...

DEER ME! I'M SO WEAK!

I'VE GOT ENOUGH TROUBLE WITHOUT YOU LEANING ON ME!

'BYE NORGE!

NEARBY, SLUG, LEADER OF THE HOODLUMS, WATCHES.

DERE GOES DAT STARVING SAFARI! NOWS OUR CHANCT TO SNATCH DE PENGUINS BENSON LEFT BEHIND!

PUTTING THEIR BEST WEB FEET FORWARD, THE THUGS WADDLE TO ATTACK....

C'MON, LET'S GO! OVER THE TOP, LUGS!!

OH, GO 'WAY!

WE'LL EAT PLENTY... GUYS! IT'S PENGUIN PUDDING! FOR US!

MEANWHILE..

THIS IS IT! LOOK! FOOD! QUIET THOUGH, REMEMBER THE PIRATES!

QUIET!

SHHH-SHHH!

THE SIGHT IS TOO MUCH FOR POOR FROSTING, WHO LOSES HIS FOOTING...

...AND SENDS ALL PLUMMETING TOWARD THE POND...

ALL MY FAULT, TOO!

PAST AN ICY CAVE, AND THROUGH THE SNOW, SLIDE ALL THREE---

SH-H-H! QUIET, FELLOWS! COME BACK HERE!

INSIDE THE CAVE, LAIR OF THE PIRATE PENGUINS----

HEY! WHAT'S DAT NOISE?

YOU DON'T HAVE TO FLAUNT YOUR WEALTH BY WEARING IT ON YOUR HATRACK, HATRACK!

M-M-M YUM! YUM!

JUST THEN, THE BLOOD-THIRSTY BUCCANEERS RUSH OUT---

I'LL GET 'EM IN THIS NET!

WE'LL MAKE THOSE GUYS WALK THE PLANK!

THE GENTS OF THE JOLLY ROGER HAUL IN THEIR NET, FULL OF FISH, HATRACK, NORGE, AND MORE FISH...

BUT STRANGE THINGS HAPPEN ON PLUTO---

CAREFUL, IT'S OUR LONG AWAITED KING!

NOT ME, PAL!

FROSTING IS SEATED ON AN ICY THRONE..

MY TALE'S TOLD!

HERE'S HIS SCEPTRE!

OUR OTHER FRIENDS ARE LED TO THE PIRATES' PLANK---

AFTER YOU, MY DEAR HATRACK!

OH-NO! I INSIST!

HOWEVER, THE CUT-THROATS DON'T HAVE AS MUCH PATIENCE.

AT THAT MOMENT, THE REIGNING MONARCH POUNDS HIS SCEPTRE ON THE THRONE, IRRITATEDLY---

I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT... WHAT TH-!

FROM THE SCEPTRE, A PARALYZING RAY FLASHES, FREEZING THE BUCCANEERS INTO HELPLESSNESS---

THAT'S NO WAY FOR A KING TO TREAT HIS SUBJECTS!

BRRR! HELP ME UP SOMEBODY!

COME ON, KING! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE YOU GET ASSASSINATED!

ON A SNOWY MOUNTAIN THEY FIND AN ICE-CALATOR, BUT..

GIDDAP, HATRACK, OLE' BOY!

GOLLY, I DON'T SEEM TO BE MAKING MUCH PROGRESS!

HEY, FROSTING! YOU'LL NEVER GET UP THAT WAY!

TO ICE-CALATOR

UP

DOWN

IN THE MEANWHILE, THE MEANIES MENTION OUR MATES, MEANINGLY AND MENACINGLY---

DEY MIGHT'A GOTTEN AWAY FROM DEM PIRATES. NOW LISTEN, YOUSE GUYS...

Later...

HERE'S DA PASS AND IF DEY'RE ALIVE DEY GOTTA COME DIS WAY! AND IF DEY'RE ALIVE DEY WON'T BE FOR LONG!

WE COULDN'T GET HIM UP THAT WAY EITHER BUT YOU DID BY TURNING THE PAGE UPSIDE DOWN. THANKS---

DIS'LL BE A CINCH! SAY, HOIMAN, HOW COME DE BOSS DIDN'T COME, HIMSELF?

MUS' BE GITTIN' SOFT, I GUESS!

SUDDENLY, THE HOODLUMS SEE A REFLECTION IN THE ICE AT THEIR FEET----

IT'S DEM, YOU DOPE!

HEY! WE DON'T LOOK LIKE DAT!

NORGE AIMS THE PARALYZ-ING RAY UPON THE THUGS, FREEZING THEM-----

DON'T CATCH COLD, BOYS!

I ALWAYS THOUGHT SLUG'S BOYS WERE A BUNCH OF LITTLE STIFFS!

BRRRR

COME ON, FELLAS. WE GOTTA GET FOOD TO OUR FRIENDS!

I'M GETTIN' HUNGRY, MYSELF!

FUNNY SLUG DIDN'T TRY TO HIJACK OUR FOOD, HIMSELF, HATRACK!

YEAH!

TINK IT'S FUNNY, EH? HOW FUNNY D'YUH TINK DIS IS, BENSON?

CCCK!

BIFF!

NOW I'LL TEACH DAT STUPID BEAR A LESSON!

WHO, ME?

COME BACK HERE!

SORRY! I HAVE A PRESSING ENGAGE-MENT ELSE-WHERE!

HEAD DOWN, THE REINDEER RACES TO HIS FRIEND'S AID, BUT SLUG IS ALL SET TO HANG ONE ON HATRACK---

I'LL SHOW DIS GUY!

SUDDENLY, SLUG SPRINGS ASIDE---

HEY! HE THINKS HE'S A TOREADOR!

YOU'RE JUST A FERDINAND IN MY BOOK!

and...

FOR SALE

HATRACK COMES ANTLER TO ANTLER WITH A LONG DEAD ANCESTOR AS SLUG'S CRONIES FAINT---

UNCLE BLITZEN!

IN THE SNOWY SLUG-FEST, SLUG COMES OUT SECOND BEST.

BUT NOW THE PEACE-PUL PENGUINS HAVE WORKED UP THEIR PLUCK.

WE'LL FIX HIM!

HO-HO! DAT FOOLISH FAWN!

LATER...

HO HO! SEE THAT, FROSTING? A FIELD GOAL!

CITY LIMITS

HOPE SLUG DON'T FEEL TOO PUT OUT!

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